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# ELLE DECORATION

SPECIALIST CONSUMER MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

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**Above** Fabien Cappello with a stool from his furniture line made of Christmas-tree wood  
**Left** A table from Cappello's outdoor furniture collection, developed for the Happiness for Daily Life café in Gongju, South Korea

## FABIEN CAPPELLO

*From Christmas trees to salvaged pallets, this Paris-born designer's furniture makes use of waste wood*

Paris-born Fabien Cappello studied at art and design college ECAL in Switzerland before enrolling at London's RCA. It was here, in 2009, that he exhibited the creations that won our hearts: stools and tables made of junked Christmas trees. They draw attention to wasted resources: every January, around 1.8 million trees are dumped on London's streets. Yet, says Cappello, 'I'm more interested in the fact that they're overlooked than in recycling them.'

Cappello takes a very collaborative approach to his work. During a residency at the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage in South Korea, he created an outdoor furniture collection with students – in eye-popping hues to reference local temples. And in conjunction with London-based architectural salvage company Retrouvius, he has fashioned tables from slabs of limestone rescued from Heathrow Airport's 1960s-designed Terminal 2. As a counterfoil to their rough-hewn edges, they have smooth, glossy surfaces that highlight the inherent qualities of the textured stone.

**What inspires your work?** I want to create exciting, challenging, shared public spaces – which designers often neglect in favour of domestic spaces. And to celebrate places and materials that aren't normally valued, to reveal unexpected qualities in them.

**What do you aim for with your designs?** I like them to spring from a connection with specific contexts and the people I collaborate with. I'm not interested in abstract ideas.

**Tell us about your latest design.** 'Cloister' is a semicircular, kingfisher-blue bench that's installed at Bloomberg's London HQ. It's made from discarded pallets. Its name comes from *claustrum*, the Latin for enclosure; the English word means 'to seclude'. While the bench affords some privacy, its slatted structure creates a sense of connection to the workplace.

**How do you feel about receiving a 2012 ELLE Decoration New Designer Award?** It's rewarding to know that others are receptive to my ideas. It motivates me to do more.

**What are your plans for the future?** So far, I've produced work on a small scale, but I'm aiming to create designs in bigger volumes. I hope my award will help me with this transition.

*fabiencappello.com*